

Remarks/Arguments:

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102 and §103

Claims 1-3, 8-9, 17, 21-24 and 26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,761,733 (Chobotov et al.). Claims 4-7, 10-16, 18-20 and 25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as unpatentable over Chobotov et al. Applicants traverse these rejections.

"A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference." M.P.E.P. §2131 *citing Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California*, 814 F.2d 628, 631, 2 USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987).

"To establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, ... the prior art reference (or references when combined) must teach or suggest all the claim limitations." M.P.E.P. §2143. Additionally, as set forth by the Supreme Court in *KSR Int'l Co. v. Teleflex, Inc.*, No. 04-1350 (U.S. Apr. 30, 2007), it is necessary to identify a reason that would have prompted a person of ordinary skill in the relevant field to combine the prior art elements in the manner claimed.

Independent claim 1 recites "[a] system for treating vasculature, comprising: a first graft component, the first graft component including a self-expanding structure and an inferior end portion; a second graft component configured to be delivered within vasculature separately from the first graft component; and a delivery catheter, the delivery catheter including a releasing mechanism, a sheath overlaying the releasing mechanism and the first graft component, and a restraining structure that maintains the inferior end portion of the first graft portion in a reduced diameter, the releasing mechanism configured to maintain the self-expanding structure of the first graft component in a compressed configuration after the sheath is withdrawn exposing the self-expanding structures; wherein the second graft component is configured to be placed about the reduced diameter of the inferior end of the first graft portion."

The Office Action cites to Figures 19-26 of Chobotov et al. and indicates that a first stent-graft component is shown at element 416 and that the second graft component is shown as the combined elements 414 and 407. Applicants respectfully submit that the indicated second graft component (414 and 407) is not "configured to be delivered within vasculature separately from the first graft component" as recited in independent claim 1. To the contrary, as explained at column 25, line 6-8, "[p]roximal inflatable cuffs 414 and 415 are disposed on a

proximal end 416 of the ipsilateral leg 404 and a proximal end 417 of the contralateral leg 405 respectively." Figures 19-21 show the proximal inflatable cuff 414 formed integrally with the proximal end 416 of the ipsilateral leg 404. Furthermore, Figure 23 shows the device of Chobotov et al. in position for delivery, with the cuff 414 as an integral part of the graft 401 such that it is delivered with the graft 401, including the proximal end 416 of the ipsilateral leg 404.

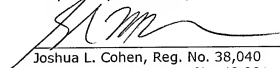
The cited reference fails to teach or suggest each and every limitation of the claimed invention. It is respectfully submitted that independent claim 1 is in condition for allowance.

Claims 2-26 each depend from independent claim 1 and therefore are allowable at least the reasons set forth above. Applicants further note that there has not been any identification of elements in the cited reference that correspond to the limitations recited in claims 2-26. It is respectfully requested that if any rejections are maintained, that a clear explanation for the basis for each rejection be provided.

It is respectfully submitted that each of the pending claims is in condition for allowance. Early reconsideration and allowance of each of the pending claims are respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes an interview, either personal or telephonic, will advance the prosecution of this matter, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned to arrange the same.

Respectfully submitted,



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